



Date: July 8, 2003
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The BLM is preparing to rescue seven Pryor Mountain wild horses that were trapped on a rock ledge by the rising water of Yellowtail Reservoir.

The horses were discovered last weekend on the west side of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area near Crooked Creek Bay. The animals could reach water, but had no palatable food and had lost a significant amount of weight since they were last seen in early June. Further investigation showed that the rough terrain would not allow the animals to walk out, and that the shortest swim of more than a quarter mile would be too much for the weakened animals.

Crews from the BLM, with assistance from the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, will move rocks to create a trail that the horses can navigate. Then the BLM will gently haze the horses out of the area and back to the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. In the meantime, the horses are being provided some hay to strengthen them for their walk back to their normal home range.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Please contact Mary Apple at 406-896-5258 if you would like to receive updates on the rescue operation.